

Message

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**From:** Neugeboren, Steven [Neugeboren.Steven@epa.gov]  
**Sent:** 12/22/2020 3:24:55 PM  
**To:** Kupchan, Simma [Kupchan.Simma@epa.gov]; Wehling, Carrie [Wehling.Carrie@epa.gov]; Goerke, Ariadne [Goerke.Ariadne@epa.gov]  
**CC:** OGC WLO MGMT [OGC\_WLO\_MGMT@epa.gov]; Conrad, Daniel [conrad.daniel@epa.gov]; Fotouhi, David [Fotouhi.David@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** RE: 1 pm deadline: Reporter Inquiry - Florida Section 404 Program

Environmental advocates have raised concerns about the fact that NEPA won't be part of reviews for major projects under the change. Do you agree with that assessment and what is your comment on the reduced public participation that may result?

And second, advocates argue that the consultation process under the normal federally-administered program is stronger than what is being put forward in this Florida program. What is your response to that criticism?

*Proposed response:*

## Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

Steven Neugeboren  
Associate General Counsel for Water  
United States Environmental Protection Agency  
Mailcode 2355A  
1200 Penn. Ave., N.W.  
Washington DC 20460  
(202) 564-5488

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**From:** Kupchan, Simma <Kupchan.Simma@epa.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 22, 2020 10:15 AM  
**To:** Wehling, Carrie <Wehling.Carrie@epa.gov>; Goerke, Ariadne <Goerke.Ariadne@epa.gov>  
**Cc:** OGC WLO MGMT <OGC\_WLO\_MGMT@epa.gov>; Conrad, Daniel <conrad.daniel@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: 1 pm deadline: Reporter Inquiry - Florida Section 404 Program

Thanks; just a few suggested minor edits below. They are not absolutely necessary if OW feels very strongly about its existing language, but the language below is more consistent with the regs and our approval language.

Simma Kupchan

EPA Office of General Counsel  
Water Law Office  
WJC North Building # 7426Q  
202-564-3105

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**From:** Wehling, Carrie <[Wehling.Carrie@epa.gov](mailto:Wehling.Carrie@epa.gov)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 22, 2020 10:02 AM  
**To:** Goerke, Ariadne <[Goerke.Ariadne@epa.gov](mailto:Goerke.Ariadne@epa.gov)>; Kupchan, Simma <[Kupchan.Simma@epa.gov](mailto:Kupchan.Simma@epa.gov)>  
**Cc:** OGC WLO MGMT <[OGC\\_WLO\\_MGMT@epa.gov](mailto:OGC_WLO_MGMT@epa.gov)>; Conrad, Daniel <[conrad.daniel@epa.gov](mailto:conrad.daniel@epa.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: 1 pm deadline: Reporter Inquiry - Florida Section 404 Program

Adding Simma. Thanks

Sent from my iPhone

On Dec 22, 2020, at 8:59 AM, Goerke, Ariadne <[Goerke.Ariadne@epa.gov](mailto:Goerke.Ariadne@epa.gov)> wrote:

Hello everyone,

Could someone take a look at this language drafted by Region 4 with input from OW and let me know you are ok with it? The inquiry and the proposed response is below. It is possible someone in OGC may have seen this already, but I don't know for sure. Thanks!

Ariadne

**Ariadne Goerke**  
Office of General Counsel  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
202-564-5471 *office*

Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP) *cell*

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**From:** Jenkins, Brandi <[Jenkins.Brandi@epa.gov](mailto:Jenkins.Brandi@epa.gov)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 22, 2020 8:37 AM  
**To:** Goerke, Ariadne <[Goerke.Ariadne@epa.gov](mailto:Goerke.Ariadne@epa.gov)>; Conrad, Daniel <[conrad.daniel@epa.gov](mailto:conrad.daniel@epa.gov)>  
**Cc:** Marraccini, Davina <[Marraccini.Davina@epa.gov](mailto:Marraccini.Davina@epa.gov)>  
**Subject:** FW: Reporter Inquiry - Florida Section 404 Program  
**Importance:** High

Ariadne and Daniel,

Below is an inquiry we received on 404 Assumption. OW and OP have already reviewed and commented. Do you mind taking a quick look?

My colleague, Davina Marraccini (copied here), is acting for me today.

Thanks,  
Brandi

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**From:** Marraccini, Davina <[Marraccini.Davina@epa.gov](mailto:Marraccini.Davina@epa.gov)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 22, 2020 8:15 AM  
**To:** Hicks, Matt <[Hicks.Matthew@epa.gov](mailto:Hicks.Matthew@epa.gov)>; Jenkins, Brandi <[Jenkins.Brandi@epa.gov](mailto:Jenkins.Brandi@epa.gov)>; Wise, Allison

<Wise.Allison@epa.gov>; Palmer, Leif <Palmer.Leif@epa.gov>; Creswell, Michael  
<Creswell.Michael@epa.gov>; Ghosh, Mita <Ghosh.Mita@epa.gov>; Gettle, Jeaneanne  
<Gettle.Jeaneanne@epa.gov>; McGill, Thomas <McGill.Thomas@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** FW: Reporter Inquiry - Florida Section 404 Program

Good morning,

I wanted to make you aware of an edit from OW. Also, can someone let me know if/when any info gets posted today so I may add that to the response? The reporter's deadline was extended through 1 pm today.

Thank you,

-Davina

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**From:** Risley, David <Risley.David@epa.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 21, 2020 5:43 PM  
**To:** Marraccini, Davina <Marraccini.Davina@epa.gov>  
**Cc:** Gentile, Laura <Gentile.Laura@epa.gov>; Jenkins, Brandi <Jenkins.Brandi@epa.gov>; Wise, Allison <Wise.Allison@epa.gov>; Harris-Young, Dawn <Harris-Young.Dawn@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Reporter Inquiry - Florida Section 404 Program

One edit from OW.

David Risley  
EPA Office of Water Communications  
Office 202-343-9177  
Cell: Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)

On Dec 21, 2020, at 4:47 PM, Marraccini, Davina <Marraccini.Davina@epa.gov> wrote:

Hi David and Laura,

I'm acting for Brandi this week and am passing on a proposed response (highlighted in yellow) to a reporter's inquiry for your review. We've missed his 4 pm deadline but as you'll see from our correspondence below he's still hoping to get a response today. Thank you!

Inquiry:

We are writing about the practical implications of Florida administering the Section 404 program. I have seen the press release put out on this.

First, I'm looking for the document referred to on page three here:  
<https://public-inspection.federalregister.gov/2020-28232.pdf>

On that page it says, "A summary of the comments received, EPA's responses to the comments, and a memorandum documenting the basis for EPA's decision ("State of Florida's Request to Assume a Clean Water Act Section 404 Program", December 17, 2020) can be found in the docket for this action (Docket ID No. EPA- HQ-OW-2018-0640)."

Has that document been released yet as I'm not able to find it? If not when will it be?

And my questions on this are:

Environmental advocates have raised concerns about the fact that NEPA won't be part of reviews for major projects under the change. Do you agree with that assessment and what is your comment on the reduced public participation that may result?

And second, advocates argue that the consultation process under the normal federally-administered program is stronger than what is being put forward in this Florida program. What is your response to that criticism?

*Proposed response:*

## Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

**Davina Marraccini**  
Government Liaison  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency - Region 4  
404-562-8293 (office)  

Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)

 (cell)  
[marraccini.davina@epa.gov](mailto:marraccini.davina@epa.gov)

<image003.png>  
[www.epa.gov/50](http://www.epa.gov/50)  
#EPAat50

**From:** Michael Phillis <[michael.phillis@law360.com](mailto:michael.phillis@law360.com)>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 21, 2020 4:16 PM  
**To:** Marraccini, Davina <[Marraccini.Davina@epa.gov](mailto:Marraccini.Davina@epa.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: FW: Reporter Inquiry - Florida Section 404 Program

Thank you for letting me know. The Olin inquiry deadline has passed. I am still interested in the 404 program questions, however, especially if those questions can be answered by the end of day.

Sincerely,  
Mike

On Mon, Dec 21, 2020 at 4:15 PM Marraccini, Davina <[Marraccini.Davina@epa.gov](mailto:Marraccini.Davina@epa.gov)> wrote:

Hi Michael,

Your inquiries regarding FL's 404 program and the Olin Site were forwarded to my office. We're still working on both and I know your deadlines have passed. Would it be OK to follow-up with you later today or tomorrow?

Thank you,

**Davina Marraccini**

Government Liaison

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency - Region 4

404-562-8293 (office)

Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP) (cell)

[marraccini.davina@epa.gov](mailto:marraccini.davina@epa.gov)

<image004.png>

[www.epa.gov/50](http://www.epa.gov/50)

#EPAat50

**From:** Michael Phillis <[michael.phillis@law360.com](mailto:michael.phillis@law360.com)>

**Sent:** Monday, December 21, 2020 11:13 AM

**To:** Press <[Press@epa.gov](mailto:Press@epa.gov)>

**Subject:** Reporter Inquiry - Florida Section 404 Program

Hello,

I hope you are doing well. We are writing about the practical implications of Florida administering the Section 404 program. I have seen the press release put out on this.

First, I'm looking for the document referred to on page three here:  
<https://public-inspection.federalregister.gov/2020-28232.pdf>

On that page it says, "A summary of the comments received, EPA's responses to the comments, and a memorandum documenting the basis for EPA's decision ("State of Florida's Request to Assume a Clean Water Act Section 404 Program", December 17, 2020) can be found in the docket for this action (Docket ID No. EPA- HQ-OW-2018-0640)."

Has that document been released yet as I'm not able to find it? If not when will it be?

And my questions on this are:

Environmental advocates have raised concerns about the fact that NEPA won't be part of reviews for major projects under the change. Do you agree with that assessment and what is your comment on the reduced public participation that may result?

And second, advocates argue that the consultation process under the normal federally-administered program is stronger than what is being put forward in this Florida program. What is your response to that criticism?

Thank you in advance for your time. I'm writing on a 4:30 p.m. eastern deadline.

Sincerely,

Michael Phillis  
Reporter, Law360  
[michael.phillis@law360.com](mailto:michael.phillis@law360.com)  
646.350.1399



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